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# ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

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## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## THIRTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

*Held on the 24th May, 1862.*

THE RIGHT HON. LORD VISCOUNT STRANGFORD,  
PRESIDENT,  
IN THE CHAIR.

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THE following Report of the Council was read by the Secretary : —

At the period of our last anniversary, the Council felt it their duty to report the difficulties under which they were labouring in respect of the Society's finances, through the withdrawal of one-half of the yearly donation formerly given by the Court of Directors of the Honourable East India Company ; and of mentioning that, unless some other mode could be found to improve the Society's financial condition, the necessity might arise for letting off a portion of the house.

At the date in question, certain communications had taken place, between the Council of the Society and the Secretary of State for India, involving the subject of an amalgamation of the Society's Library with those of the India House, Haileybury, and the Board of Control. Shortly afterwards, the Council having been led to infer that this question of amalgamating the Libraries was not likely to be soon settled, it was resolved, before deciding on the measure of sub-letting a portion of our house, to make a fresh application to Sir Charles Wood for a renewal of the annual grant from his Department in the full amount of two hundred guineas.

Later in the month of June, however, and before an answer was received to this application, fresh knowledge was acquired, which induced the Council to draw up and forward to the India Office a proposal to take charge of its amalgamated Libraries, and to keep

them in the Society's house, paying the Librarian's present salary of £500 per annum, and furnishing attendance and facilities for consulting the books and manuscripts according to the regulations formerly in use in Leadenhall Street, on condition that the Society should receive an annual grant of £1000 from the India Office, and that the first cost of removing the books and setting up the book-cases in the Society's house should be borne by the India Office.

About the middle of July, an answer was received from the Earl de Grey and Ripon, in which no notice was taken of the last-mentioned proposal of the Council in respect of our taking charge of the East India Libraries; but his Lordship informed the President that Sir Charles Wood, in consideration of the circumstances stated in the application for increased assistance, had sanctioned the donation annually granted from the revenues of India in aid of the funds of the Society being increased to £210; adding that, in the event of the Society being accommodated with apartments in any Government building, the donation would be again reduced. The full sum of two hundred guineas was accordingly paid to the Society last November, from the India Office, as will be seen in the appended Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure.

In consequence of this increase in the means of the Society, the question of sub-letting any portion of the house was dropped. Up to the present time, the subject of the future disposal of the East India Libraries does not appear to have been definitively settled. The custody of so important a national treasure would add to the stability of the Society; but to enable us to receive so large a collection of books into this house, it would be necessary to give up the rooms now occupied by our Museum; and a careful comparison of catalogues would also be requisite, so as to avoid a superabundance of duplicates.

The organization of the Society's Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, on a plan somewhat different to that formerly adopted, was mentioned in last year's Report. Shortly afterwards, J. C. Marshman, Esq., volunteered his services to this Committee for a twelve-month, as its Honorary Secretary. The Council passed a Resolution, appropriating the sum of £100 to the use of the Committee, for its various expenses, and arranging for the publication, in the Society's Journal, from time to time, of such papers of interest as might be deemed admissible by the Council. During the present session, the Committee has been actively engaged in the investigation of various questions of importance in relation to the productive industry and resources of India, and to the extension of British commerce in that portion of Her Majesty's dominions, as is more fully explained in the Report of the Committee.

The quarterly publication of the Society's Journal has been carried on during the past year; and on the 1st of July the last part of Vol. XIX. will be delivered. It is the earnest wish of the Council to continue the work on this plan; but, without a sufficient supply of good material, it is evident that the Journal cannot be carried on regularly; and without regularity of publication, the Journal must cease to be an eligible vehicle for placing before the learned world and the general public the investigations of those observers from whose writings it can alone derive interest and authority. The Council hope, therefore, that members will redouble their exertions in this cause, by contributing such papers as they may have been enabled to draw up, and by inviting such of their friends to do the same as have the best opportunities and fitting talent to investigate questions of Oriental interest.

With a view further to increase the value and interest of the Journal, the Council, taking into consideration the recommendation of a Committee specially named to deliberate on the subject, adopted a resolution to the effect that notices should henceforth be inserted in its pages of works which may be published on the various Asiatic subjects falling within the scope of the Society. This resolution will be carried out as opportunities occur, and as works of merit are brought to the notice of the Society by members, authors, or publishers.

During the year, besides the presentation by various learned Societies at home and abroad of commencements or continuations of their Transactions or Journals, our Library has, through the liberality of H. F. Talbot, Esq., been enriched with a copy of the magnificent work of Botta on his Assyrian discoveries. The Government of H.M. the Emperor of the French has also presented a copy of M. Oppert's work on Assyrian Inscriptions. The authorities of the British Museum have given a copy of the Cuneiform texts of Assyrian inscriptions published under the superintendence of Sir H. Rawlinson and E. Norris, Esq. The Arabic text of El-Makkari's "History of the Muhammedan Rule in Spain" has also been completed in five quarto parts, copies of which have been presented by the Government of H.M. the King of the Netherlands and by one of the joint-editors, Wm. Wright, Esq.

The Rev. S. Beal, chaplain of Her Majesty's frigate "Shannon," has presented a beautiful specimen of Chinese industry and devotion, as displayed in the preparation of a copy of the Buddhist work "Kiu-Kong-King," or Chinese version of the Vajrachedidika Sutra, the whole of the text being embroidered in silk letters on a satin ground, and the covers being similarly worked in embroidery. It is, in these respects, a perfect work of art, and a great curiosity. Mr. Beal

has also presented a copy of the Chinese version of the Buddhist work, "The Sutra of the Forty-two Sections." Translations made by Mr. Beal accompany both the works, and one of them has already been published in the Society's Journal.

Captain Raverty has also presented copies of his four works on the Pushto, or Afghan language and literature—viz., the Grammar (second edition), a Dictionary, a Selection of Prose and Poetry, and a Selection of Translated Pieces.

The Governments of the Australian Colonies and of the Mauritius, as well as the Board of Trade, have promised to communicate to the Society, in future, such papers and returns as may be useful or interesting in connexion with the objects of the Society.

During the past year, proposals for the exchange of publications have been received from the following British and Continental Societies, and have been acceded to by the Council—viz., the Literary and Philosophical Society of Liverpool; the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; and the Imperial Archaeological Society of St. Petersburg, for its Oriental Section. Our Society, therefore, now presents its publications to more than one hundred different Societies or public institutions, from many of which we receive Journals, Transactions, &c., in return.

Our numismatic cabinet has received a valuable addition of seventy-seven Indian coins, selected by E. Thomas, Esq., from the collection of His Highness the late Rao of Kutch, which had been confided to General Jacob for the purpose. A few other coins have also been presented by members of the Society; and it is much to be desired that our cabinet should receive further contributions, so as gradually to be placed in a position of completeness that might render it worthy the attention and study of numismatists.

Two inscriptions on copper-plate have been presented to the Society by Mr. Roberts, which have been transmitted to Professor Dowson for decipherment and translation. These were found in the neighbourhood of Manikala, in the Upper Punjab. They are written in the so-called Aryan or Cabul numismatic character, and in a language intermediate between Sanskrit and Pali, but nearer to the former. A memoir on the subject by the Professor will appear in the Society's Journal.

The Government of Mysore has directed that a large number of articles sent by it to the Great Exhibition shall be offered to this Society at the close thereof. Upon examination, it will most likely be possible to select a certain number for our museum; but a perusal of the catalogue is sufficient to show that many of the objects are, from their nature and bulk, unsuited for the limited accommodation at our command.

It will be in the recollection of the meeting, that in the year 1857, a distinguished member of our Society, J. Muir, Esq., D.C.L., LL.D., offered a prize of £300 for the best History and Exposition of the Vedanta System, both as a Philosophy and a Religion. The essay was to be written in either German or French; and the money was placed in the hands of this Society, to be paid to the successful competitor. The period fixed for the delivery of the compositions expired on the 1st of April, 1860; but no treatise having been given in by any candidate, Mr. Muir repeated his offer last June, and added English as one of the languages in which the essay might be written. The period fixed for giving in any compositions intended to compete for Mr. Muir's prize is the 1st of October, 1864; Professor Lassen, of Bonn; M. Regnier, of Paris; and Professor Goldstücker, of London, having consented to act as examiners, and to decide on the merits of the treatises. The money is placed in the London and Westminster Bank, in the names of four trustees, Members of the Society, selected by the Council.

The Council have much gratification in announcing to the meeting that the progress of the Society in point of the number of Members, which was stated at the last Anniversary to be not altogether unsatisfactory, has, thanks to the spirited exertions of some of our fellow-members, continued to be favourable. During the past twelve months the accession to our numbers consists of thirty-four Resident and twenty Non-Resident Members, while our loss from deaths, retirements, and exclusions by reason of non-payments, amounts to eighteen Resident and seven Non-Resident Members.\* The balance in numbers is, therefore, a gain of sixteen Resident and thirteen Non-Resident Members. Again, of those lost to us three had

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\* *Elections*.—*Residents*: Major-General Anstruther; the Earl of Powis; Major-General Sir A. S. Waugh; Sir F. J. Halliday, K.C.B.; Sir J. Laurence, Bart. G.C.B.; Major-General G. A. Malcolm; H. D. Seymour, Esq., M.P.; Arthur Russell, Esq., M.P.; H. W. Freeland, Esq., M.P.; W. E. Forster, Esq., M.P.; Lieutenant-Colonel Rigby; Colonel Baker; Sir H. Montgomery; Major Showers; J. W. Kaye, Esq.; Dr. Burzorjee; J. Scarth, Esq.; Murray Gladstone, Esq.; Malcolm Lewin, Esq.; J. G. Frith, Esq.; Rev. W. J. Beaumont; Rev. J. Mills; Charles Wells, Esq.; John Westwood, Esq.; Daniel D. Dymes, Esq.; C. P. Modeliar, Esq.; A. Bellasis, Esq.; William Macpherson, Esq.; Captain J. Miles; H. L. Anderson, Esq.; W. P. Adams, Esq.; F. W. Prideaux, Esq.; J. Borra-dale, Esq.; Rev. S. Beal. *Non-Residents*: G. K. Nieman, Esq.; Honourable Arthur Gordon; J. H. Macalister, Esq.; H. S. Freeman, Esq.; J. E. Blunt, Esq.; Henry A. Churchill, Esq.; Niven Moore, Esq.; J. Milligan, Esq.; Captain James Puckle; Lieutenant R. A. Cole; Captain C. L. R. Glasford; J. G. Taylor, Esq.; Captain H. G. Raverty;

compounded for their subscriptions, and eleven—viz., seven Resident and four Non-Resident—have either never paid a subscription or have allowed their arrears to accumulate for four, five, or six years, inclusive of the present. Although the apparent gain of the Society in the amount of subscriptions is, therefore, only sixty-one guineas, it will be seen by reckoning those non-paying Members as such, that the true yearly gain amounts to ninety-five guineas. Satisfactory as these numbers may be esteemed on the whole, the Council must still press it on the consideration of Members to make all possible efforts to bring fresh additions to our ranks, so that, with increased means, we may adopt a more energetic course of action, and be enabled not only to purchase such works as we do not possess, and without which our library is sometimes found deficient by inquiring scholars, but further, to resume the very necessary work of binding hundreds of valuable volumes of which we are already the owners.

The first among our deceased Members whom it is our sad duty to mention is the late Prince Consort, the loss of whose manifold and unobtrusive virtues all England deplores. His Royal Highness, united in marriage to our beloved Queen in 1840, became a Member and Vice-Patron of the Society on the 8th of May, 1841. His education had been most carefully conducted, so that his knowledge of languages, and of various arts and sciences, was known to be great. He had been the pupil of Professor Lassen, of Bonn, one of our Foreign Members, and also one of the most learned and distinguished Oriental scholars in Europe; and on his joining the Society a lively hope was felt and expressed that the pursuits in which we are

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Major R. N. Trouson; Sir J. H. D. Hay, K.C.B.; Colonel St. John Neale; R. A. O. Dalzell, Esq.; Colonel Hamilton; James Zohrab; G. C. P. Braune, Esq.

*Deaths.*—*Compounded*: H.R.H. the Prince Consort, 1841; Colonel Sir Claude Wade, 1846; Samuel Ware, Esq., 1824. *Resident*: Robert Alexander, Esq., 1831; Lieutenant-General De la Motte, 1847; Rev. Dr. Donaldson, 1839; Thomas Newnham, Esq., 1833. *Non-Resident*: H. G. Freeling, Esq., 1856.

*Retirements.*—*Resident*: Lieutenant-Colonel Bush, 1858; Rev. Dr. Hessy, 1844; N. B. Edmonstone, Esq., 1849; William Rothery, Esq., 1833. *Non-Resident*: C. Newton, Esq., 1852; H. Sandwith, Esq., 1852.

*Exclusions.*—*Resident*: K. R. H. Mackenzie, Esq.; William Balston, Esq.; R. Dalglish, Esq., M.P.; R. W. Duggan, Esq.; Theodore Harden, Esq.; J. W. Pycroft, Esq.; Viscount Pevensey. *Non-Resident*: Hyder Jung Bahadoor; E. C. Murray, Esq.; Nasif Mallouf; L. Oliphant, Esq.

engaged would meet with especial regard and encouragement at the hands of His Royal Highness.

To say that this hope was not fulfilled to the letter is merely to assert that the Prince's time was limited. Ever taking the warmest interest in all social questions, and occupying himself with those pursuits that tend most truly to increase British happiness and influence, he found but little time left to give to this Society. At the time when Sir Henry Rawlinson's discoveries in the decipherment and translation of the ancient Achemenian and Assyrian records were most strongly attracting the attention of the learned world, His Royal Highness evinced the interest he took in the subject by presiding at the General Meeting of the Society held in the evening of the 16th of February, 1850, when the concluding part of Sir Henry's paper "On the Cuneiform Inscriptions of Nimrud and Khorsabad" was read.

On the occasion of the sudden bereavement by which the nation was deprived of a wise councillor, the Queen of her Consort, the Royal Family of a father, and the Society of a Vice-Patron, the Council felt it incumbent on them to follow the example of the numerous public bodies who then approached the throne with their assurances of dutiful and affectionate sympathy. An address of condolence was accordingly presented to the Queen by the Council in the name of the Society, through the Home Secretary, Sir George Grey, and an answer was received to the effect that Her Majesty had been pleased to receive the address very graciously.

The family of NEWNHAM is of Saxon origin, and one of great antiquity, being mentioned in Domesday Book. Sir Fulk de Newnham founded a nunnery near Faversham, in Kent; and another of the family, Sir John de Newnham, was one of the Knights Crusaders, under the banner of Odo, Earl of Albermarle. Sir John afterwards attended Edward the First into Scotland, and was made a Knight Banneret at the siege of Carlaverock.

The subject of the present notice was the second son of Thomas Newnham, Esq., of Southborough, county Kent; and was born 24th December, 1777. At an early age he entered the naval service of the Honourable East India Company, but subsequently received an appointment to the Civil Service on the Madras establishment, which he joined in 1800. After the usual course of training in subordinate offices, he was, in 1808, sent to take charge, as British Commissioner, of the Danish settlement of Tranquebar, which had recently been captured. The flattering testimonials which he received from the Danish inhabitants of every class, when he quitted that appointment, about two years afterwards, showed with what tact and kindness he

had succeeded in reconciling the duty he owed to his own Government with the feelings and interests of a people irritated in no small degree by the policy of England towards Denmark. The subsequent offices which he filled during a long career were all in the judicial branch of the service. He was for upwards of ten years Judge and Criminal Judge at Cuddapah, where his name is still remembered with great respect and attachment, owing to the interest he took in the welfare of the people, and to the self-sacrificing benevolence with which he devoted his entire means to feeding the poor during one of those severe famines which have from time to time visited that part of the country.

In 1821 he was promoted to the Court of Appeal and Circuit in the Centre Division, in which he rose gradually from third to first judge. He was thence transferred to the corresponding position in the Circuit Court of the Western Division at Tellichery, where he remained until 1833. He then resigned the service, and returned to England, after an uninterrupted residence in India of thirty-five years. He has since, for a period of nearly equal duration, passed the remainder of his life principally in London, devoting his time to literary pursuits, and to a course of active benevolence, of the extent of which few are aware except his humbler neighbours. He died, after a short illness unattended with pain, at his residence, in Chapel-street, on the 29th September last, in the 84th year of his age.

SIR CLAUDE WADE, born in Bengal, 1794, entered the military service of the East India Company in 1809, and arrived in India in the following year, where he soon distinguished himself by proficiency in the native languages.

In 1812, the young ensign saw some severe service in Bundelcund ; and in 1814, he was one of the first to enter the new College established at Fort William for the study of Languages and Laws ; but was soon obliged to leave for active service in the field against the Mahrattas and Pindarrees, where, during an almost incessant warfare of three years, suffering much from constant exposure under tents, with severe privations and losses in camp equipage, cattle, &c., the young officer learnt a lesson of military duties which proved invaluable towards the close of his diplomatic career.

In 1820, he was appointed Brigade Major in Oude, and being despatched to Calcutta in 1822, Lord Hastings retained him for employment in the Map and Survey Department ; and, in consequence of his expressed wish, his successor, the Honourable J. Adam, nominated him, in 1823, to the political station at Loodiana, then under the Agent of the Governor-General at Delhi.

To understand the critical circumstances under which Lieutenant

Wade entered on his new functions, it is necessary to glance at the state of our relations with Runjeet Singh, and other native Powers, at that period.

The intercourse with the Sikh chieftain had hitherto been confined to the exchange of a ceremonious letter of inquiry once or twice a year; but as, from 1809 to 1819, this had been conducted by the master-hand of a Metcalfe, the most amicable relations had been maintained until the latter year. Circumstances had since occurred which had shaken the Maharajah's faith in our professions and deeply wounded his pride; and in the years 1823 and 1824, he was strongly tempted by the usurper of Bhurtpore, and the emissaries of other States, to attack us after the reverses we sustained in the first Burmese war. He accordingly assembled his army, and appeared disposed to take advantage of any disastrous turn in our affairs; and for a while it required no little address to remove his doubts and suspicions, and confirm his confidence in the resources of our Government.

In 1825, the danger was partially removed by the restoration of peace with Ava; but in the following year, Sir Charles Metcalfe, being re-appointed Agent at Delhi, enabled Captain Wade to restore perfect harmony between the Sikh and British Governments, by revoking the obnoxious act of interference by which we had given the Maharajah just cause of offence.

It may be worth while to state here, in his own words, those simple principles by which Sir Claude Wade achieved such extraordinary success in all his future intercourse with the "Lion of the Punjab":—"I used my best endeavours," he said, "to follow the example of Lord Metcalfe in balancing the interests of the two States, and identifying their policy, as paramount to every other object. In India, it is essential to the proper care and preservation of our system of alliances, that the British Agent should be regarded as a friend of the chiefs among whom he resides, rather than as a mere instrument for conveying the instructions or enforcing the policy of their foreign masters. Our rigid rule is not congenial with their national habits, and a softening agency may wisely be exercised to inspire the confidence of our Indian allies, without losing sight of the views and interests of our own country."

In 1827, on the occasion of Lord Amherst's tour, Runjeet Singh having sent a complimentary mission and presents to the Governor-General, Captain Wade was deputed to return with corresponding presents to Amritsir, and impress our allies with the sincerity of our friendship towards them; in which he succeeded so well, that he was appointed, in the following year, to the charge of our political relations with Runjeet Singh, connected with his territory south of

the Sutlej, including the settlement of disputes between the protected Sikh States and those of His Highness—the limit of his authority on the left bank of the Sutlej having been left unsettled by the Treaty of 1809, and this omission having given rise to dangerous disputes.

In 1830, some horses arrived from England as a return present from the King to Ranjeet Singh, and Lord William Bentinck wished to send them up the Indus, but was at first deterred by the refusal of the Amirs of Sind to grant them a passage. The difficulty was removed by Captain Wade's influence with the Maharajah, who stopped the Amirs' objections by his language to their Envoys at his Court, and a warlike demonstration on their frontier; and afterwards even consented to allow Lieutenant Burns to visit Cashmere, &c., on his way to Bokhara, though very averse to the proposal at first, and suspicious of our coveting his possession of Cashmere.

In 1831, on the occasion of Lord William Bentinck's tour, Captain Wade succeeded, not without extreme difficulty, in inducing the Maharajah to consent to an interview with the Governor-General, on his own terms, at Ropur, which had a decisive effect on all the other chiefs in India, and on its frontiers, lowering the tone of the boldest among them by a conviction of the identity of interests between the British and Sikh States.

In 1832 he was again dispatched to Ranjeet Singh by Lord William Bentinck, to reconcile him to the opening of the Indus; and during the two following years he was incessantly engaged in negotiations with the Maharajah and other chiefs, in carrying out this important object, by securing commerce against the predatory tribes on the banks of the river, persuading the native Courts to permit the establishment of a British Agent at the confluence of the Indus and Punjab Rivers, and settling all disputes between the Bhawulpore, Rajpoot, and protected Sikh States, which had compromised the safety of the land routes; until at length, in 1834, he succeeded, in conjunction with Colonel Pottlinger, in concluding treaties with the riverain States on the Indus and the Sutlej, establishing the freedom of the navigation, and substituting tolls on boats for the vexatious *ad valorem* duties previously levied.

In expressing its great satisfaction at this result, the Home Government remarked on "the tried judgment and high diplomatic ability" of Captain Wade, and confirmed his appointment, in 1835, to the exclusive charge of our relations with the Court of Lahore and the States across the Indus.

In 1836, serious difficulties arose with regard to the succession in the Jheend and Ferozepore States, between Ranjeet Singh and the British Government, which Captain Wade ultimately settled to the satisfaction of both, after a tedious process of ascertaining rights

and surveying the territory, by dividing it between the two Governments ; securing for us the ferry opposite Loodiana, which proved of vital consequence to our army in the subsequent Sikh campaign. And, immediately afterwards, the still more difficult task was imposed on him, of checking the ambitious views of Runjeet Singh, and arresting his conquests in Sind and Afghanistan, which he succeeded in effecting by negotiation, although a rupture was imminent, and prepared for on both sides. On this event, the Maharajah's friendship disclosed to him the intrigues of Louis Philippe to establish French influence in the Punjab, and enabled him to defeat them.

In 1837, he induced the Maharajah to co-operate in establishing fairs on the Indus, and to desist from subjugating the Afghans in revenge for their attack on Jumrood. But in 1838, Dost Muhammed having insisted on Peshawur's being given to him by our Government, Burns's mission was withdrawn from Cabul, and Major Wade was ordered to take part, with the local rank of colonel during this service, in the expedition resolved upon for the following year, by forcing the Khyber Pass, to create a diversion in favour of the army of the Indus, invading through Candahar. The military means granted him for this operation were—5000 Sikh auxiliaries, regular troops, about 5000 Afghan levies, and a small detachment of British native infantry and horse artillery. But Runjeet Singh, who was to have accompanied him, was then prostrated by illness at Lahore, and his Durbar were hostile to the success of the enterprise ; so that when Colonel Wade reached Peshawur, he found, to his intense disappointment, that no Sikhs were collected, no preparations were made, and he had to indent on the Sikh arsenals for powder and shot, and to establish manufactories to arm and clothe his Afghan levies, which took three months to accomplish ; Runjeet Singh dying in the midst of his work, to the immense increase of his difficulties. He succeeded, however, by great efforts, in organizing his miscellaneous force, and then encamped for two months at the mouth of the Pass, practising the men by constant skirmishing, until the Army of the Indus was ready to move, which was to be the signal for his attack ; meanwhile, he gained over the Afghan tribes between the Khyber Pass and Cabul, by negotiation. On July the 23rd he entered the Pass, captured the Fort of Ali Mesjid, and opened the passage, with a loss in killed and wounded equal to that of the Army of the Indus before Ghuznee ; and Lord Auckland stated, in his despatch on the subject, that "it was not upon record that the celebrated Khyber Pass had ever previously been forced."

For this brilliant achievement, performed with such heterogeneous materials, Major Wade was raised to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and created a K.C.B. ; and his military duties being ended by the

triumphant march to Kabul, and the transfer of his Afghan levies to the Shah's Government, he returned to Loodiana, from which station he was transferred to the Agency of Malwa, in the following year, 1840.

At this period, the predatory system, put down by the Mahratta war, had revived in this Province, and seriously disturbed the whole social condition of the country, divided as it was between mixed, distant, and conflicting jurisdictions. Sir Claude Wade succeeded, however, in effecting its pacification, including the settlement of the Bheel tribes, who were more numerous in Malwa than in any other part of India; and it is worthy of remark that, although dealing, throughout the greater part of his career, with men of the sword, who appeared to recognise no authority but that of force, he never had occasion to employ military means to effect his objects during the whole course of his agencies at Loodiana or Indore.

During the brief remainder of his agency, till 1844, when failing health compelled him to return to Europe, he devoted himself to the promotion of education, road-making, &c., and those active investigations into the trade and products of the country, by which he had previously supplied the Government with such full information respecting the resources of the Punjab. On his return to England, he married, in 1845, the eldest daughter of the late Colonel Nicholl, of the Bengal Horse Artillery, by whom he was blessed with a numerous issue; but his constitution had been injured by exposure under tents at all seasons of the year, during his missions to the Punjab; and after fifteen years of rare domestic felicity, he gradually succumbed to an old complaint, on the 21st October, 1861, leaving his family to mourn the loss of one of the kindest and most estimable of men.

The Rev. JOHN WILLIAM DONALDSON, D.D., elected a Member of the Society, on the 9th of June, 1838, was born in 1811, and entered Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1830, where he soon distinguished himself by his talents and classical acquirements, taking a high place in honours and being ultimately placed among the Fellows of the College. He was also chosen to assist in the tuition of the Undergraduates, and during this time produced his "New Cratylus," besides superintending the compilation of the "Theatre of the Greeks." After a few years Dr. Donaldson was appointed Head Master of the Public School at Bury St. Edmunds. While there he published a complete edition of Pindar, a translation and commentary on the Antigone of Sophocles, some works on the Hebrew language, and his treatise on the Latin tongue, entitled "Varronianus," which ranks among works on Latin as high as the "New Cratylus" does

among works on Greek philology. In 1855, Dr. Donaldson returned to Cambridge, was soon after appointed one of the Classical Examiners of the University of London, and subsequently an Examiner for the Civil service. His completion of Otfried Müller's "Literature of Greece," and his publication of two very complete grammars of the Greek and Latin languages, evince the untiring energy with which he devoted himself to the study of comparative philology, and to the facilitating for others the pursuit of that rising science until he was, at the early age of fifty, carried away by death from the field of his labours.

GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK FREYTAG was born at Lüneburg, on the 19th September, 1788. He became a Member of the University of Göttingen in 1807, where he devoted himself successfully to the study of theology and of Oriental languages. In 1811 he obtained an appointment in the University Library, which, it is stated, he was compelled to resign in consequence of his profession of patriotic sentiments opposed to French domination. On this he went to Prussia, and obtained a chaplaincy in a Prussian regiment, which he accompanied to Paris with the Allied Army, at the fall of Napoleon in 1815. In that capital he became acquainted with the celebrated De Sacy, who strongly advised him to resume his application to Oriental languages, and offered to assist him in the prosecution of studies for which he had already shown so much aptitude. Freytag eagerly embraced the offer, and the Prussian Government relieved him of his military appointment, supplying him with the means of continuing his studies and defraying his expenses in Paris. Freytag profited greatly by the instructions of De Sacy, and in 1819 he received the appointment of Professor in the University of Bonn, where he published most of the works by which he is known to Arabic scholars. His death took place in the early part of the present year. The work by which Freytag is best known is the "Arabic Lexicon," in 4 vols. 4to., published at Halle, in 1830-37. An abridgment of this work appeared at Halle, in 1837.

A number of works on Arabic poets and literary editions of Arabic poets, historians, and other writers, were produced by Freytag at different times. His first work, an edition and translation of Arabic poetry, appeared at Göttingen, in 1814. Most of his works subsequently issued were printed at Bonn or at Halle. The following is a list of them:—

Fokihat Alcholafa. Bonn: 1837.

Lexicon Arabico-Latinum. 4 vols. Halis: 1830-37. 4to.

Lexicon Arabico-Latinum ex majori excerptum. Halis: 1837. 4to.

Darstellung der Arab. Verskunst, &c. Bonn: 1831. 8vo.

Chrestomathia Arabica Grammatica Historica. Lipsie: 1831. 8vo.

أمثال العرب Arabum Proverbia, ed. G. W. F. 3 vols. Bonne: 1838-42. 8vo.

Caab b. Zoheir carmen.. cum Carmine Motanebbii, &c. Bonne: 1822. 8vo.

أشعار الحمامة Hamasæ Carmine cum Tebrisii scholiis. 2 pts. Bonne: 1828-47. 4to.

Lokmani Fabulae, &c. Bonne: 1823. 8vo.

فاكتة الخلفاء، وفاكتة الظفر Fructus Imperatorum et Jocatio Ingeniosorum auctore.. Ebn Arabschah, &c. 2 pts. Bonne: 1832-52. 4to.

Selecta ex Historia Halebi. Paris and Argent: 1819. 8vo.

Regierung des Saad-Alauda zu Aleppo, Arab. mit Uebersetzung. Bonn: 1820. 4to.

Carmen Arabicum perpetuo Commentario et versione. Illustravit. Fr. Gottingie: 1814. 4to.

Kurzgefasste Hebr. Grammatik. Halle: 1835.

The incomplete condition of the XIIth and XIVth volumes of the Journal has been several times brought to the notice of the Council by members desirous of having their copies bound. The first-mentioned volume, containing the ancient Persian work by Sir H. C. Rawlinson, was left unfinished in consequence of the important discoveries made at Ninevah, which placed in that gentleman's hands an immense amount of new material in a language and character which had hitherto been almost wholly unattempted, and gave promise of affording an insight into the history of ages far more remote than any thing discoverable in the Persian inscriptions; and moreover, these last had already been fully investigated, so that any further interest in them would be philological only. The great amount of labour requisite for the investigation of this new material has hitherto prevented our learned Member from continuing the interrupted volume, and he is now of opinion that the subject has been exhausted by other investigators, who have left him nothing to communicate.

The XIVth volume, on the Assyrian and Babylonian Inscriptions, was interrupted by the departure of Sir H. Rawlinson from England on the important mission intrusted to him by Her Majesty's Government. The duties connected with the mission, followed by the laborious task of editing and publishing the Assyrian and Babylonian inscriptions in the British Museum, have proved an irremovable obstacle to continuing the volume. Sir H. Rawlinson is now persuaded that, considering the very great advances made in the study since the first part was printed, any attempt to complete the

volume would result in a patchwork of which one half would be very unequal to the other.

The Council have therefore decided on issuing printed notices, to be bound up with the published parts of these two volumes, giving the reasons why they have been left incomplete.

Since the decease of our lamented Director, Professor Wilson, the Council has had under consideration the selection of a gentleman qualified by superior Oriental knowledge for undertaking the duties of an office of so peculiar a nature, which has been held in succession by Sir T. Colebrooke and Professor Wilson from the very beginning of the Society's existence. They have now the gratification to announce to the meeting that Sir Henry Rawlinson has signified his readiness to be put in nomination for election to that office. His name appears, therefore, in the balloting lists submitted for your consideration to-day, and if adopted by you, the vacancy will henceforward be filled by our distinguished Member.

The Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund have been occupied during the year in the consideration of the best means for invigorating and extending their operations. The propositions for this object were embodied in a Report published last autumn, to which they beg to refer. One of the proposals—that referring to reduced terms of subscription by future supporters of the Fund—can only be carried out if additional means be thereby obtained. The Committee have requested M. de Slane to proceed with the translation of *Ibnu-Khallikān*, suspended during his absence in Algeria. They propose to publish a volume of Miscellaneous Translations, consisting of extracts from interesting works, and similar matter; and they invite the aid of Orientalists in effecting this design.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

Towards the close of the last session, the Council determined to revive the Committee of Trade and Agriculture, with the view of collecting, digesting, and diffusing information regarding the productive resources of the East generally, and of India in particular. A Committee, consisting of fifteen members, was accordingly formed, and J. C. Marshman, Esq., one of the members of the Council, offered his services as Honorary Secretary. Information of the establishment of the Committee was sent to those in England and abroad who were likely to assist in promoting the object; and the Committee have the prospect of receiving valuable papers from parties in India who take

an interest in these subjects, and are in a position to communicate intelligence on them. A Statistical Society has recently been formed in Calcutta with a kindred design, and there is every reason to hope that the object in view will be forwarded by an interchange of communications.

The Committee have held nine meetings, corresponding with the meetings of the Council, at which various topics connected with the resources and the progress of improvement in India have been brought under discussion. A variety of documents connected with the questions of inquiry have been collected together, or presented by different individuals. Four papers have been read and discussed at the meetings, on the following subjects:—the Progress of the Culture of Tea in Assam, and other localities in India—the Production of Cotton in the District of Dharwar, Past, Present, and Prospective—the Means and the Cost of conveying Cotton in India, more especially as compared with America—and the Waste Lands in India, in reference to the recent Proclamation of Government for the Sale of them in Fee-simple. Other papers are in course of preparation by the Honorary Secretary, and some have been promised by members of the Committee. The paper on the Cultivation of Cotton in Dharwar was read at an evening meeting of the Society, on the 22nd of March, to a numerous auditory, and elicited an animated discussion, which showed the importance of the question and the interest taken in it. The paper appears in the last quarterly part of the Society's Journal.

The Committee have to state that of the sum of £100 which the Council voted last year to meet their expenses, they have required to spend less than one-half, and that no further appropriation will be requisite for the ensuing year.

#### AUDITORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1861.

Your Auditors have carefully examined the accounts of the past year, and are happy to report that, notwithstanding the sudden death of your late clerk and collector, Mr. Neal, they have been found quite correct.

In the Report of the past year the accumulated outstanding liabilities were £380 6s. 7d., which were liquidated by the sale of £606 19s. 5d., realizing £552 0s. 4d., thereby reducing the Society's funded property from £1,806 19s. 5d. to £1,200 Consols.

Since the last anniversary, 34 Resident and 20 Non-Resident Members have been added to the Society's list, representing an increase to their annual income of £99 15s., in addition to sundry donations £62, and compositions £31 10s.

The total income of the Society was £972 15s. 5d., and the gross expenditure was £848 15s. 8d., against £885 18s. 1d. in 1860.

The balance in the Banker's and Treasurer's hands on the 31st December, 1861, was £323 8s. 4d., which would more than cover all the outstanding liabilities—viz., Printers, £216 0s. 8d., and Stationer, £14 17s. 9d.; total, £230 18s. 5d.—leaving a clear balance of £92 9s. 11d. Thus the whole of the current year's income will be applicable to its expenses; and, from the continued increase in the number of Members, there will be no necessity for any farther call on the funded property of the Society.

FRED. FINCHAM, *Auditor for the Council.*

J. W. BOSANQUET, } *Auditors for the Society.*  
J. GREGSON,

3rd of May, 1862.

The reading of the Reports being concluded, LORD STRANGFORD rose and addressed the meeting as follows:

Gentlemen,—It is with sincere satisfaction that I congratulate you upon the improvement in the society's condition and prospects, which is announced in the Report now laid before you. For several years past the Council has had the painful task of presenting you at each anniversary with nothing but a melancholy record of diminishing numbers and financial struggles. It is a welcome novelty to be able this year to state that not only are we relieved from our temporary embarrassments, and from the necessity, which would have been almost a humiliation, of having recourse to such shifts as that of sub-letting half of our house in order to enable us to hold our own and pay our way; but we have a most decided increase both in the number of our Members and in the activity of our operations. For the most essential part of this relief we are indebted to the sanction by Her Majesty's Government of the renewal to us of the full annual grant of 200 guineas, formerly bestowed upon us by the East India Company. For this our thanks and grateful acknowledgments are due, in the first instance, to Sir Charles Wood. It must be remembered, however, that this was no spontaneous recognition of our claims and merits, but the result of the deliberations of the East India Council, upon repeated applications made by ourselves upon the subject; and we should be wanting in gratitude and right feeling if we failed to convey and record our especial acknowledgments to the members of that Council, and most particularly to those who are also members of this Society, whose support and advocacy have proved of such great service to ourselves and to the cause of Oriental

study and research in this country. Neither must we forget those public spirited Members who have consented to forego the advantages they have obtained by compounding for their sub-criptions, and have re constituted themselves subscribers; nor those to whose assiduous exertions among their friends we owe our present large, and, I trust, permanent, increase in the numbers of our associates.

But, gentlemen, forgive me if I remind you of the obligations which accompany these advantages. Grants of this kind are not conferred upon public bodies for nothing, and their bestowal upon us not only confers benefits, but imposes serious duties and responsibilities. They constitute, and recognise in us, the central and, so to speak, the official organ and exponent of Oriental scholarship, and generally of all branches of literary and scientific investigation having reference to Asia. It behoves us, consequently, to spare no effort to fulfil these duties, and to render ourselves worthy of the distinction conferred upon us. In this spirit we have undertaken, during the past year, to revive the so-called Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, which in past years formed, under the very able and efficient superintendence of the late Dr. Royle, an important branch of our researches. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Marshman for the zeal and ability with which he has devoted himself to the labours of this committee, over which he has presided during the late year, and to which he has contributed most valuable papers upon\* the productive resources upon India. This committee had been revived for the purpose of affording the political and commercial portion of the public the best information, under the sanction of the highest available authorities, upon the all-important subjects of the agriculture, commerce, and general industrial products and capabilities of our Eastern empire, and of Asia generally. It is in the prosecution of these researches that a true and legitimate source of popularity lies before us, and I earnestly invite Members present to co-operate with us for this most useful and practical purpose by securing additional contributions for the Committee, and calling public attention to it as much as lies in their power.

With regard to the general and miscellaneous transactions of the Society, we have succeeded in obtaining an increase in the number of contributions to the Journal, and in redeeming our pledge of regular quarterly publication. This last most desirable result, I am bound to say, is mainly owing to the untiring exertions and unremitting industry of our Secretary, Mr. Redhouse, to which I have great pleasure in bearing testimony, from constant observation. It is unreasonable to expect scholars to contribute the valued fruits of their thought and labour to journals only appearing at irregular intervals, and sometimes ceasing to appear for years together, as has

been the case more than once with our own Journal. It is most certain that irregularity of this kind is highly injurious and detrimental to the character and authority of any society, and I can bear witness to having heard it made matter of complaint and unfavourable comment among Continental Orientalists. All ground for such complaint is now fortunately removed; yet it is well once more to place it upon record that the chief cause of such irregularity lay in our poverty and our inability to meet the expense of frequent publication, in consequence of the serious reduction of our annual subsidy.

This is a favourable occasion for adverting briefly to the present somewhat depressed condition of Oriental studies and scholarship in England. That condition does not arise from any diminution in the numbers, or deterioration in the character of our Orientalists, or from any abstract want of interest shown by the public in the results of their labours. It is, rather, a temporary depression arising out of the annihilation of the munificent patronage of the East India Company, which necessarily followed the extinction of that body.

The merits and demerits of that measure have been canvassed in every conceivable aspect except one. It has been truly said by a former President that we cease to be politicians in this room, and we have nothing, therefore, to say upon the political bearings of the case; but from our own point of view, as representing English Orientalism, we cannot but acknowledge and deplore the great loss which it has sustained by being deprived at one blow of a patronage most liberally and on the whole most judiciously exercised, and without which it is not too much to say that the great bulk of those important and standard works, which constitute the record of English Oriental study, would never have seen the light.

To take the one name which may, perhaps, be considered that of the most prominent and typical Orientalist at present before the public, that of Professor Müller; had it not been for the Company's patronage and support, his brilliant talents and vast erudition and critical acumen would have been totally lost to this country. Oriental studies in this country, mainly supported by the East India Company, have been, and are now, almost entirely dependent upon patronage of some sort or another; if not that of the Company, it is that of University foundations or of British Museum grants. We all remember Macaulay's eloquent description of the depressed state of general literature during part of last century, when the poet or historian had ceased to find countenance and support in the patronage of individual great men, and had not yet found the means of independence and remuneration in the demand for his works, as at the

present day, by a large and intelligent reading public. I think we Orientalists are in the same condition. It is essential that such a work as Mr. Redhouse's new and most valuable Anglo-Turkish Dictionary should have been written. It is impossible that its author would have been—I don't say recompensed for time and labour, but even indemnified for its expenses—by the proceeds arising out of the sale of a work for which the demand must for the present, and perhaps always, be limited. It could, therefore, never have appeared had it not been for the liberality of a private American gentleman. The support, then, of Government, of public bodies, or of individuals, is vitally necessary to the existence of genuine Orientalism in this country, and this principle is the motive and the justification of the grant conferred upon ourselves. I say genuine Orientalism, because there is no lack of the spurious article in the present state of things, in which there is every temptation for an author to stimulate the sale of his work among a general public, imperfectly instructed on special points, by encouraging and falling in with popular fallacies, and by addressing highly seasoned and rarely unconscious appeals to popular prejudices, when it is to that sale alone that he can look for remuneration.

It would be wrong to leave this subject without taking notice of a peculiar condition of the public mind at the present moment with reference to some important branches of inquiry which come within the scope of this Society's operations. In these matters a reaction appears to be setting in, the ultimate result of which, I need hardly say, will certainly not be to invalidate the genuineness and truth of the processes with which we have identified ourselves, and the discoveries and results we have obtained and proclaimed. But, if allowed to continue, it is not difficult to foresee that it may have the effect of temporarily affecting our position and lowering our scientific character before the public. On the one hand, we have the President of a flourishing and influential society committing himself, and, incidentally, the society in whose transactions his opinions are recorded, to the doctrine that there is no such thing as a science of comparative philology based upon the structural and verbal affinities between the Aryan languages proper and the principal European languages; that no such affinities exist; that the Gothic *quinō* has no connection with the Sanscrit *janā*, because they have only one letter in common; and a deal more to the same effect. Whether all this be true or false—whether you or I think it true or false—is not the question, and does not matter to us just now; but it is evident that there are many people who do believe it to be true, and that their aggregate opinion may affect our position unfavourably. It is clear that if such opinion should come to be received as

an established truth in this country, we may sell one-half of our Journal for waste paper. Again, most of us are familiar with the searching criticism which has recently been applied by a scholar of high authority to the various systems of Egyptian history and chronology, to the evidences upon which the interpretation of hieroglyphic inscriptions is said to be based, and to the chronology of Assyria as handed down to us by ancient classical authors. Criticism of this sort, which doubts rather than denies, and which wisely contents itself with destroying the rash uncritical affirmations of other scholars, is of the greatest use, if only to encourage and stimulate research, independently of its own intrinsic truth and value. It puts the defenders of new theories and discoveries on their mettle, and tends to create a useful class of writers, who act as a medium of communication between the man of science and the general public, by explaining and keeping up with his labours, and popularising their results. Not that there is any novelty in the Egyptian part of Sir Cornwall Lewis's arguments. He has simply included the researches of Bunsen in the application of the forcible arguments and trenchant criticism employed by Klapproth against Champollion, as published by him in his famous "Lettre à M. Champollion," and made known in this country by articles in the *Foreign Quarterly Review*, and in vol. 57 of the *Edinburgh Review*. This great English scholar is an old and seasoned critic, and cautiously abstains from committing himself to any distinct denial of the truth of hieroglyphic interpretation, while upon the subject of Assyrian or other cuneiform interpretation he maintains an entire and absolute silence. Yet there can be no doubt in the mind of any one who converses on the subject in general society, or who watches the tendency of public opinion as exhibited in the leading organs of literary and scientific criticism, that the passive acquiescence with which we have accepted the results of Rawlinson, Norris, and Hincks, of Lassen, Oppert, and Westergaard, has been roused by the appearance of Sir Cornwall's work into open defiance and disbelief. His intelligent scepticism is in no way responsible for the ignorant and uncritical language of denial used by people who talk of "the cuneiform language" as a single unity, yet it may be said to have been the means of calling it forth and determining the period of its appearance. It will not be long, in all probability, before the controversy, if such it can be called, will be settled once for all. This is not the time or the place to discuss the question in detail, or to venture to anticipate those who have most right to speak with decision and authority on the subject; but I cannot help remarking that, if the interpretation of the Persian text of the Behistun inscription, which has been universally recognised for the last fifteen years as correct, which has never been con-

troverted or disturbed otherwise than by perfectly worthless and ridiculous criticism, and which furnishes us with a complete and invaluable basis from which to investigate the other more difficult languages and more complex writings; if this be a mere farrago of wild guesses and random nonsense, I can only say that the perfect identity—the verbal and almost literal identity—of Professor Lassen's nonsense, worked out by him at Bonn in 1836, and of Rawlinson's nonsense, which we possess in the original Baghdad manuscripts of the same period, constitutes the most remarkable literary event of the century. The coincidence is as strange and marvellous as if two bags full of letters in two separate places were to be turned out into a heap, and in each case were to form a book of Milton or a play of Shakspeare. It is more worthy of being called the great discovery of the century than Champollion's discoveries, so called generally, according to Sir G. Lewis, or than the great discovery of the identity of Phœnician and Irish, actually so called in a recent work by a member of a learned society. I have trespassed far too long on your time and patience, gentlemen, in dwelling on these points; but I have done so with the sole view of drawing your attention to the actual and prospective difficulties arising out of the fluctuations of public opinion upon these questions, which we may be called upon to encounter. In conclusion, I must reiterate my exhortation to members of this Society, and Orientalists in general, to exert their utmost efforts in order to secure a full and permanent supply of contributions to our Journal. There is, perhaps, as much good and accurate Oriental scholarship in this country as anywhere else; if there be an exception it is in favour of Germany, the great modern *officina doctorum*, and it is a matter of unquestionable credit to ourselves that it should exist with any thing like vigour at present, when it has so little direct encouragement. But it would be infinitely more effectual in its results, and would occupy a far more commanding position if it were concentrated in one or two special publications, instead of being diffused throughout the whole vast mass of our periodical literature. Undoubtedly, a far greater number of general readers have Oriental information brought under their eyes in the latter case, a greater momentary impression is produced; and, what is of more immediate consequence to writers, the one kind of contribution is remunerative, and may constitute the chief means of support to its author, while the other is rarely or never so. But it must always be remembered that a special organ, such as the Journal of this Society, affords by far the best means of permanent publicity to those whose contributions are of a special nature and scientific value, and who destine them not only for the perusal of their living fellow-countrymen, but for the benefit of foreign readers,

and the easy and natural reference of posterity. Whatever may be lost in the extent of immediate fame, will be amply rewarded by the certainty of permanent utility and future reputation. I earnestly hope, therefore, gentlemen, that you will spare no exertions on behalf of our Journal, and, meanwhile, I can only express to you my best thanks for the patience and attention with which you have favoured me.

At the conclusion of the President's address, it was proposed by M. LEWIN, Esq., seconded by P. B. SMOLLETT, Esq., M.P., and unanimously adopted :

"That the Report of the Council, that of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, with those of the Committee of the Oriental Translation Fund and of the Auditors, be accepted, printed, and distributed ; also, that the thanks of the meeting be expressed to the Auditors for their examination into the accounts of the Society for the past year."

Thanks having been returned on part of the Auditors, his lordship the PRESIDENT next introduced the subject of the changes recommended by the Council to be made in the rules of the Society, moving, in the first instance,

"That, in future, the general meetings of the Society be held on Mondays instead of Saturdays, and that Article XLVI of the 'Rules and Regulations' be altered in this sense."

The motion having been seconded, was opposed by M. LEWIN, Esq., who proposed, as an amendment,

"That Tuesday be substituted for Monday ; remarking that "The members of the Oriental Club, on whom the Royal Asiatic Society chiefly depends, will seldom be able to attend Monday meetings. Monday is a business day, and unsuitable for a *dilettante* society, such as the Royal Asiatic Society. A ballot takes place at the Oriental Club at 4 o'clock on every Monday throughout the year, and the Committee of the Club sit at 3 o'clock on every Monday. The selection of Monday will probably lead to a secession of members from the Society, and I think it may be regarded as a slight."

This amendment was seconded, but, on proceeding to the vote, the original proposal was carried by a large majority. The General Meetings of the Society will, therefore, after the present session, be held on Mondays, alternately with those of the Royal Geographical Society.

The PRESIDENT then proposed, and the RIGHT HON. HOLT

MACKENZIE seconded, the alteration of Rules VII and XVIII, so as to admit Honorary Members to the Council and offices of the Society, and to entitle them to receive copies of the Society's Journal.

GENERAL BRIGGS rose, and, in the following terms, proposed an amendment :

My Lord and President.—Though in an infirm state of health, I have felt it my duty to come to London, at great inconvenience, principally on account of the motion just proposed, and of which I had received notice in the circular that has been distributed to Members. It is painful for me, who have so frequently served on the Council of the Society, and have been one of its Members almost from its first formation, to come forward to oppose a motion emanating from the Council. Not content with the privileges that Honorary Members already possess by our rules, of attending the meetings, of having access to the Library and Museum at all times when they are open, and of having the benefit of receiving gratis, at the pleasure of the Council, all our Journals and proceedings, the Council now proposes to admit them as members of the Council itself—to have a voice in the regulation of our affairs, to legislate for our finances, and even to dispose of our property in the Library and Museum. I hold that this motion is altogether novel and unprecedented in other societies, has a tendency to confer powers on parties who are unwilling or unable to pay their contributions for the Society's support, and may at some future period lead to serious embarrassments. I know it will be stated that there are at present two or three eminent Oriental scholars in London who would be most useful in the Council, by aiding it in the elucidation of complicated literary questions occurring in documents presented to the Society, but which could not be printed without such commentaries as these learned gentlemen could supply. My answer to that is, that if these learned gentlemen could afford to devote their time to such purposes, they might do so without being members of the Council—a position which I hold to be at variance with the good of the Society. The Society is always open to receive from Honorary Members any papers they may desire to bring before the public; and if they were received and passed by the Committee of Papers, these gentlemen would have the advantage of their papers being brought before the public and the learned societies of Europe without the expense of printing them." With these views, the gallant and honourable Member felt he could not conscientiously allow the motion to pass without being bound to oppose it. He therefore proposed, as an amendment, "That Article VII of the 'Regulations' stand as it is, without the proposed alteration."

M. LEWIN, Esq., having seconded the amendment as follows :

" I agree with General Briggs in his objection to conferring on Honorary Members of the Council the rights and privileges of ordinary and paying members, and I think the measure is unnecessary, as the Council has a discretion to do all that can be required, whether in supplying copies of its proceedings or in availing itself of the services of Honorary Members, as at present constituted. I also think that according all the rights of paying members to honorary members is without precedent in any public institution, and that it is against all principle that an honorary member should have a control over the funds of the society to which he does not contribute. I think no sufficient reason has been shown for subverting the fundamental rules of the Society."

THE RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE, GENERAL SIR H. C. RAWLINSON, K.C.B., and W. SPOTTISWOODE, Esq., rose and explained the several advantages hoped for in admitting honorary members to office, the proposal having for its object to do away with the anomaly now existing, and through which the Society, by conferring on any distinguished Orientalist the highest honour in its power, deprives itself of the benefit of his services on the Council.

On proceeding to the vote, the proposal of the Council was carried by a large majority.

M. GORE, Esq., then proposed, W. ELLIOTT, Esq., seconded, and it was unanimously adopted :

" That the Society offer the expression of its deep sense of obligation to the President, Lord Strangford, for the able and zealous manner in which he has evinced the interest he takes in the welfare of the Society."

LORD STRANGFORD briefly expressed his unwillingness further to occupy the time of Members present, and offered his thanks for the honour done him by their vote.

C. GRAHAM, Esq., proposed, C. WELLS, Esq., seconded, and it was unanimously adopted :

" That the best thanks of the meeting be offered to the Vice-Presidents and Council for their efficient co-operation in conducting the affairs and forwarding the interests of the Society during the past year."

THE RIGHT HON. HOLT MACKENZIE rose to return thanks on behalf of the Vice-Presidents and Council. He need not, he felt assured, use many words to satisfy the Society that their Council very highly

valued this expression of their approbation, and the hour warned him not to trespass on their time with any unnecessary comments. But he rejoiced in the opportunity of congratulating the meeting on the improved circumstances of the Society ; and as he could for himself claim but little share in the work done by their Council, he had no hesitation in stating that the great devotion of that body to the interests of the Society, which they trusted had not been altogether unfruitful, justly entitled them to the compliment which the vote of thanks implied. He would venture, however, to add that the advancement of the Society must, after all, mostly depend on the Members themselves, to whose exertions and contributions alone they must chiefly look for an increase to their numbers, and an extension of their usefulness and influence.

It was then proposed by R. HUNTER, Esq, seconded by A. B. HILL, Esq, and adopted *nem. con.* :

“That the thanks of the Society be tendered to the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, also to J. C. Marshman, Esq, for his voluntary and zealous services as its Honorary Secretary, during the past year.”

The Right Hon. HOLT MACKENZIE, on the part of the Committee, and, in the absence of Mr. Marshman, on his part also, returned thanks, and stated that he had been commissioned by Mr. Marshman, who was compelled to leave London at an early hour, to express to the meeting the high value which he attached to the approbation of the Society, and to assure them that it would afford him a lively satisfaction to continue those labours which had been justly recognised by their present vote. Having presided at the meeting of the Committee of Agriculture and Commerce, Mr. MacKenzie felt himself entitled to bear his testimony to the great importance of the services rendered by Mr. Marshman, to whom, indeed, he might say the Committee owed its vitality. He trusted, however, that, in the coming year, more of the individual members would afford their aid in carrying out the objects of that Committee. And there was especially one subject on which many of the retired officers of the Government could communicate invaluable information. He meant the rights, institutions, interests, and feelings of the natives in the various provinces of our vast Indian empire, in relation to the land, a minute knowledge of which seemed to him quite essential in order to the happy result of any measures for introducing into that country European skill and capital, and our ignorance or neglect of which appeared to be the cause of most of the difficulties that had beset the British planter. We must especially

avoid hasty generalization ; a full and accurate detail of the circumstances of a few villages, selected in different quarters, occupied by different castes and classes, and exhibiting the rights and obligations of the people, from the man who held the plough to the officer who collected the Government dues, would do more to enlighten public men, and safely to guide public opinion, than a world of blue books containing crude opinions and statements resting on vague assertions or on ill ascertained facts.

GENERAL BRUNN next proposed, THOMAS O'NEILLY, Esq., seconded and it was adopted :

"That the thanks of the meeting be returned to the Treasurer, Librarian and Honorary Secretary, and to the Secretary, for their services in their respective departments."

E. NORRIS, Esq., Librarian and Honorary Secretary, returned thanks in the name of the Officers of the Society.

M. GORE, Esq., and A. B. HILL, Esq., were requested to act as scrutineers, and the ballot being proceeded with, the following result was announced :

*Director*—Major-Gen. Sir H. C. Rawlinson, K.C.B., D.C.L., F.R.S.

*Treasurer*—Edward Thomas, Esq.

*Secretary*—James Wm. Redhouse, Esq.

*Honorary Secretary and Librarian*—Edwin Norris, Esq.

*Council*—Thomas Bazley, Esq. M.P. ; J. W. Bosanquet, Esq. ; John Dickinson, Esq. ; Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff, Esq., M.P. ; M. P. Edgeworth, Esq. ; James Fergusson, Esq. ; Frederick Fincham, Esq. ; Professor T. Goldstucker ; Sir Frederick Halliday ; John C. Marshman, Esq. ; Edward Stanley Poole, Esq. ; Patrick Boyle Smollett, Esq., M.P. ; Col. W. H. Sykes, M.P., F.R.S. ; Dr. Forbes Watson ; Major-Gen. Sir A. S. Waugh, C.B.

A vote of thanks was unanimously offered to the President for his services in conducting the meeting, and his lordship announced the next ordinary General Meeting of the Society to be fixed for the evening of Saturday, the 21st June.

## ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1861.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
151 Resident Members, at 3 guineas ...	47	13	0	House Rent for 1 year	250	0	0
41 Non-Resident Members, at 1 guinea ...	43	1	0	Assessed Taxes, ditto	19	17	0
7 Original Members, at 2 guineas ...	14	14	0	Provincial Rates, ditto	36	9	2
Arrears paid up ...	56	10	0	Water Rate, ditto	5	19	0
Compositions:—H. For Talbot, Esq. ...	51	18	0	Fire Insurance	5	12	6
B. H. Hodgson, Esq. ...	21	0	0	House Expenses 26.0s. 3d., Housekeeper's Wages, 36s. ...	62	0	3
Donations:—India Council ...	10	10	0	Cos. 8s. ; Gas, 2l. 7s. ...	10	15	0
B. Butfield, Esq. ...	210	0	0	Rebuilding Chimneys, 40l. 2s.; Surveyor's Fee, 7s. 6d. ...	72	15	3
Wm. Spottiswoode, Esq. ...	31	10	0	Mr. Quailette for Survey of House and Report	40	9	6
B. H. Hodgson, Esq. ...	10	10	0	Mr. Mason for Survey House Repairs ...	5	6	0
W. Platt, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Salaries: — Secretary, 90l.; Clerks, 53l.; Porter, 54l. 13s.; Commission to Collectors ...	5	8	6
O. de B. Priaulx, Esq. ...	5	0	0	Commission to Collectors ...	198	9	0
Dividends on Consols ...	272	0	0	... ...	20	16	9
Sale of Publications ...	57	12	8	... ...	219	4	9
Sale of 606l. 19s. 5d. Consols ...	59	14	9	Lithographer's Bill	27	11	0
Balance at Bankers, 1st January, 1861 ...	56	8	6	Periodicals ...	6	0	8
Ditto in Treasurer's hands ...	1	6	4	Binding Journal—Parker and Son	14	8	1
	27	14	10	B. Quaritch ...	14	6	6
				Home and Foreign Postage	26	6	6
				Sundries ...	11	13	2
				Transfer and Sale of Stock	5	8	11
				Advance to Committee of Agriculture and Commerce	60	0	0
Liabilities of 1860 paid off:—] Quarter's Rent	70	0	0	Liabilities of 1860 paid off:—] Quarter's Rent	157	14	10
Purchaser's Rates ...	33	8	4	Purchaser's Rates ...	70	0	0
Painter's Bill ...	209	5	3	Painter's Bill ...	33	8	4
Lithographer's Bill ...	20	9	0	Lithographer's Bill ...	209	5	3
Painter's Bill ...	35	17	3	Painter's Bill ...	35	17	3
Stationer's Bill ...	9	6	9	Stationer's Bill ...	9	6	9
Balance at Banker's (less outstanding cheque for 1st. 4s. 7d.) 31st December, 1861 ...	310	14	8	Balance at Banker's (less outstanding cheque for 1st. 4s. 7d.) 31st December, 1861 ...	380	6	7
Ditto in Treasurer's hands ...	12	13	8	Ditto in Treasurer's hands ...	12	13	8
Amount of Society's Fund, Three per Cent. Consols ...	£1,553	10	7	Amount of Society's Fund, Three per Cent. Consols ...	£1,553	10	7

We, the undersigned, have audited these Accounts, and are satisfied with their correctness.

FREDK. FINCH, M<sup>l</sup>. Auditor for the Council.  
S. GREGSON,  
J. W. BOISANQUET, { Auditors for the Society.